

House Resolution 153

By: Representatives Hugley of the 133rd, Williams of the 165th, Lucas of the 139th, Porter of the 143rd, Randall of the 138th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Representative Calvin Smyre and congratulating him on the
2 occasion of his election as the President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators;
3 and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, for his massive contributions to the City of Columbus, the State of Georgia, and
5 the United States, Representative Calvin Smyre has been elected to serve as the President of
6 the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

7 WHEREAS, he was born on May 17, 1947, in Columbus, Georgia, and attended Fort Valley
8 State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and minoring
9 in Accounting; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre's career path has taken him from his humble beginnings
11 as a community organizer and director of the "War on Poverty" program in Columbus to his
12 current position as a prominent national figure in the world of finance, acting as the executive
13 vice president of corporate affairs for Synovus Financial Corporation, a diversified financial
14 services company based in Columbus with more than \$30 billion in assets, and as the
15 chairman and CEO of the Synovus Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has served as a member of several legislative
17 committees, including the Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for dividing up
18 the state's budget, and the calendar-setting Rules Committee and has served as Chairman of
19 the House Rules Committee and University System of Georgia Committee, which has
20 oversight responsibility for the state's 34 public colleges and universities, and the House
21 Industrial Relations Committee; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre sits on the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of
2 Georgia Foundation, the Morehouse School of Medicine, the Jack D. Hughston Foundation,
3 and the Fort Valley State University Foundation, among others; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been selected as a delegate to attend the past seven
5 Democratic National Conventions and has provided his expertise to a number of political
6 campaigns on both the state and national levels, including his service as a southern campaign
7 advisor for President Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Deputy Campaign Director in Kentucky in
8 1980, senior advisor in the campaigns of Governor Joe Frank Harris and Governor Zell
9 Miller, Campaign Director of the Georgia Democratic Party Unified Campaign Committee
10 in 1988 and 1990, Co-chairman of President Clinton's campaign in Georgia in 1992 and
11 1996, and Chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign in 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been instrumental in authoring legislation for the
13 recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., instituting his birthday as a state holiday; for the
14 creation of the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons; and for the historic creation of
15 a new Georgia State Flag; and

16 WHEREAS, he was elected Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus in 1979; was
17 elected to the Democratic National Committee in 1985, becoming the first African American
18 elected official from Georgia to serve in this post; and in 1986 was appointed Administrative
19 Floor Leader by Governor Harris, becoming the first African American to hold this position;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Smyre has been a heroic and generous figure to the City of
22 Columbus, as he was instrumental in the construction of the \$62 million Columbus
23 RiverCenter, served as President of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center, and has been
24 honored twice as the "Citizen of the Year"; and

25 WHEREAS, his election as the President of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators
26 marks one more moment in a long list of amazing victories, victories that Representative
27 Smyre unhesitatingly shares with the citizens of Georgia and the United States, and his life
28 will continue to serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body commend Representative Calvin Smyre for an outstanding career
31 in public service and extend to him the sincerest best wishes for his future.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
2 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Calvin
3 Smyre.